



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park

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New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Announces “Hometown Tourist Week”

New Bedford, Mass— While tourists often come and visit New Bedford’s historical downtown area, few natives take the time to find out how interesting and exciting this area can be. For this reason, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park has dubbed the week of April 18-24, “Hometown Tourist Week,” offering free children’s activities, concerts, walking tours and more. Stop by the visitor center at 33 William Street to pick up a full schedule or visit our website at www.nps.gov/nebe. Say “I’m a hometown tourist” to the staff at the front desk and receive a free national park reusable tote bag.

That week coincides with National Park Week, a nationwide celebration of our country’s treasures-- its national parks. It also coincides with April vacation, providing children with many fun, hands-on activities.

From Sun., Apr. 18-Sat., Apr. 24, three 45-minute guided walking tours will be offered each day, at 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, and 2:30 PM. The 10:30 tour will be the Underground Railroad tour, with the stories of escaped slaves seeking freedom in 19th century New Bedford. The 12:30 tour will focus on the risks and rewards of whaling. At 2:30 PM, visitors will explore New Bedford’s vibrant working waterfront, and understand the parallels between whaling and fishing. All tours leave from the park’s visitor center at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford, and take place, rain or shine. Each day at noon, *Exploring the Homeport: The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* in New Bedford will be shown in the Corson theater.

New Bedford Whaling Museum will be offering free admission all week to local residents. Just show your ID for free admission to the museum. The museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill. For more information, call 508-996-0046.

WHALE, or Waterfront Historic Area League, will be offering free architecture walking tours of the downtown district. Tours will leave from the park visitor center, 33 William St. Tour schedule to be announced.

New Bedford Historical Society will be offering free walking tours of the Underground Railroad in New Bedford. Explore the stories of escaped slaves who found freedom in our city.

The historic Seamen's Bethel will be open for free tours all week, from Monday through Friday, from 10 AM- 3 PM daily. The building has served as a place of worship and instruction for the maritime community for over 175 years. The Seamen's Bethel is located at 15 Johnny Cake Hill. For more information, call 508-992-3295, or go to their website at <http://portsociety.org/>

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum will be offering a special 2-for-1 admission all week for Hometown Tourists. The museum is located at 396 County Street. For more information, call 508-997-1401, or go to their website at <http://www.rjdmuseum.org/>

The week will be filled with activities for youngsters and for adults as well. From Tuesday through Friday, the Ocean Explorium will be hosting a free Climate Action Workshop for students in grades 5-8, and runs from 9 AM- 2 PM. For more information on the workshop, contact aspargo@oceanexplorium.org.


On Sat., April 17, at 7:00 PM, the Explorium will hold its grand opening of the "Sea and Ice—The Extraordinary Life of Captain Bob Bartlett" Exhibit. This exhibit chronicles the life of Captain Robert A. Bartlett, owner of the *Effie M. Morrissey*, now Schooner *Ernestina*, from 1926-1946. Capt. Bartlett, originally from Brigus, Newfoundland, was a renowned Arctic explorer who successfully navigated Admiral Peary to his discovery of the North Pole in 1909. Capt. Bartlett made yearly trips to the Arctic for scientific expeditions and anthropologic studies with sponsorships from National Geographic, the Smithsonian, and the Museum of Natural History. Capt. Bartlett and the *Morrissey* also were commissioned by the US Navy for surveying in the Arctic during World War II.

The ticketed opening event at the New Bedford Ocean Explorium is complete with an open bar and light fare. A concert by Newfoundland's Jim Payne and Fergus O'Bryne and Schooner *Ernestina*'s New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus will follow. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the door.

The Ocean Explorium will be open all week of April vacation/Hometown Tourist Week, from 10 AM- 4 PM each day. Schedules are posted on the website at www.oceanexplorium.org.

Monday, April 19: At the park visitor center, 33 William St., from 1:30 – 3:00 PM, enjoy Eskimo Art. Create your own art project inspired by the people of the Arctic. Listen to stories and explore items brought from the most northern part of the United States. Free.

Monday April 19 is also Right Whale Day at the Whaling Museum: take part in a variety of activities that focus on a unique but highly endangered species, the northern right whale. Join us under our right whale skeletons for hands-on activities, right whale baleen and a naming contest for two living right whales.



Tues., April 20: From 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the national park visitor center, 33 William St., Meet Salt & Crystal. Join marine biologist Krill Carson for an exciting family presentation on the life of Salt, the most famous humpback whale in the world! Make an origami whale and watch as Krill inflates a 25 foot humpback model. Krill is the Education Coordinator for Capt. John Boats in Plymouth, MA. Free. At the Whaling Museum, experience the Art of the Azores: learn a traditional Azorean craft and bring it home as a souvenir.


Tues., April 20: 2:00 PM at the national park visitor center, 33 William St., view Pathe newsreels on the National Landmark vessel Schooner Ernestina.

Wed., April 21: from 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the national park visitor center, 33 William St., have fun with Crafty, Crafty: Watch a free demonstration of 19th century crafts and find out about life during the whaling era. Let your creativity loose and make something to take home. At 4:00 take a free “hard hat” tour of the new Coalition for Buzzard’s Bay building which marries historic preservation with 21st century green technology. Meet at 114 Front Street. At the Whaling Museum, learn about knot-tying and try your own hand at this art.

Thurs., April 22: From 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the national park visitor center, 33 William St., take *A Whaling Adventure*: Go on a virtual voyage around the globe with this new online activity. Explore an 1850s whaling port. Experience the diversity of cultures whalemens encountered while searching the globe for whales. Free. The Whaling Museum will also have a simulated dolphin necropsy, where three 'dolphins' will mysteriously wash ashore in the Jacobs Family Gallery. Visitors will work to determine possible solutions to this mystery, and follow many of the steps used by the scientists who study marine mammal mortalities.

Thursday, April 22 is also Earth Day, and from 10:00-11:30 at the national park visitor center, 33 William St., visitors can learn how to make traditional native Alaskan games from recycled materials in this free activity. The Ocean Explorium will also have Earth Day themed crafts, earth magnets and seed-starter kits. Also at the national park visitor center at 2:00 PM, 33 William St., view Pathe newsreels on the National Landmark vessel Schooner Ernestina.

Fri., April 23 from 1:30 – 3:00 PM, at the national park visitor center, 33 William St., hosts *A Whaling Captain’s Daughter*: Read the journal of a young girl who accompanied her father on a whaling voyage. Make your own journal to write, draw in, and bring home. Free. At 6:30 PM, Portuguese fado singer Ana Vinagre graces the National Park stage. Ms. Vinagre is one of the area’s best known and most respected fadista. Refreshments will be provided by the Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE). Also free. The Whaling Museum will also host “All Aboard,” where visitors will prepare to go on a whaling voyage by picking out your wardrobe, filling your sea chest and getting a temporary tattoo with your fellow crew members.



Sat., April 24, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William St., get creative with Eskimo Art: Learn how create your own art project inspired by the people of the Arctic. Listen to stories and explore items brought from the most northern part of the United States. Free.

Almost all of the events are free of charge, and many take place at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park visitor center, 33 William Street, New Bedford. Others take place at partnering organizations. Come to the national park and be a “hometown tourist!”

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established by Congress in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America’s nineteenth century whaling industry. The park, which encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District, is the only National Park Service area addressing the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States. The National Park visitor center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. It is open seven days a week, from 9 AM-5 PM, and offers information, exhibits, and a free orientation movie on the hour from 10 AM-3 PM. Admission is free. For more information, call 508-996-4095.

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